

THE , COMMISSION , OF , FINE , ARTS

ESTABLISHED BY CONGRESS MAY 17, 1910

J. CARTER BROWN, Chairman

HAROLD BURSON

WALTER A. NETSCH

JOHN S. CHASE

ALAN R. NOVAK

SONDRA G. MYERS

EDWARD D. STONE, JR.

CHARLES H. ATHERTON, Secretary

708 JACKSON PLACE, N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20006
202-566-1066

MEETING OF THE COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS

April 19, 1983

AM

9:00 CONVENE, 708 Jackson Place, N.W., Washington, D.C.

I. ADMINISTRATION

- A. Dates of next meetings: May 10, 1983 (including luncheon)
June 14, 1983
- B. Approval of February 8, 1983 and March 8, 1983 minutes of the Commission of Fine Arts.
- C. District of Columbia Save the Elms Task Force, report.
- D. Landmarks Committee, Confirmation of reappointment of incumbent members.

II. SUBMISSIONS AND REVIEWS

- A. District of Columbia Government, Department of Housing and Community Development, Redevelopment Land Agency

CFA 19/APR/83-1, New Office Building, 4th and Virginia Avenue, S.W., final designs, (previous: CFA 14/NOV/82-8 and CFA 14/DEC/82-3).

- B. National Park Service, National Capital Region

- 1. CFA 19/APR/83-2, Vietnam Veterans Memorial, site planning development details.
- 2. CFA 19/APR/83-3, Overpass bridge at Dangerfield Island over George Washington Memorial Parkway.

II. SUBMISSIONS AND REVIEWS CONTINUED, April 19, 1983

3. CFA 19/APR/83-4, Mall Lighting on Madison Drive.

C. Pennsylvania Avenue Development Corporation

1. CFA 19/APR/83-5, Pedestrian lighting mock-up, revised designs, at 1201 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W., (previous: CFA 7/OCT/80-1, CFA 13/JAN/81-3, and CFA 10/MAR/81-4).
2. CFA 19/APR/83-6, Western Plaza Flagpole Bases, revised designs, (previous: CFA 8/FEB/83-4 and CFA 14/DEC/82-2).

D. Smithsonian Institution, Museum of Natural History

CFA 19/APR/83-7, Placement of heating and air conditioning equipment on roof, design of equipment housing.

E. District of Columbia Government Department of Housing and Community Development

1. Shipstead-Luce Act

- a. S.L. 83-48, 730 15th Street, N.W., Enclose terraces on 10th floor of American Security Bank Building, (previous: S.L. 83-3).
- b. S.L. 83-50, 2138 & 2140 F Street, N.W., New seven story building.
- c. Appendix I.

2. Old Georgetown Act

- a. O.G. 83-67, 1025 Thomas Jefferson Street, N.W., revision to approved plans for new building, Crow Washington, (previous: O.G. 83-22).

II. SUBMISSIONS AND REVIEWS CONTINUED, April 19, 1983

b. Appendix II.

F. Department of the Treasury, Bureau of the
Mint

CFA 19/APR/83-8, Louis L'Amour medal, designs.

REPORT OF ACTIONS TAKEN UNDER THE SHIPSTEAD-LUCE ACT

<u>NO.</u>	<u>ADDRESS AND OWNER</u>	<u>PROJECT</u>
S.L. 83-34	2125 Kalorama Road, N.W. Government of Portugal	Addition

ACTION: Concept approval given scheme "C" for design development. Cutting down ridge height may be desirable after study. Submit working drawings and material samples to Commission of Fine Arts for approval confirmation prior to permit issuance.

S.L. 83-45	8221 West Beach Terrace, N.W. Mrs. Ellecia M. Lindo	Screened patio
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ACTION: No objection. Issue permit as per drawings received and dated 28 February 1983.

S.L. 83-46	2025 F Street, N.W. George Washington University	George Washington University Service Building
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ACTION: Preliminary designs given concept approval subject to review and approval by Commission of Fine Arts of working drawings and on-site brick sample panel.

REPORT OF ACTIONS TAKEN UNDER THE OLD GEORGETOWN ACT

<u>NO.</u>	<u>ADDRESS AND OWNER</u>	<u>PROJECT</u>
O.G. 83-47	3206 M Street, N.W. City Tavern Club	City Tavern Club vent stack

ACTION: No objection to issuing permit, but an exception is recommended to lower the height if possible to minimize visibility from Wisconsin Avenue. Applicant has agreed to paint vent medium value gray.

O.G. 83-49	3327 M Street, N.W. Alvin Himmelfarb	Raze abandoned gas station
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ACTION: Issue permit to raze the existing gas station at 3327 M Street. (See previous action O.G. 83-17).

O.G. 83-53	1028 29th Street, N.W. Mr. Bean	Retaining wall
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ACTION: No objection to terrace renovation as shown on drawing received and dated 14 March 1983. Proposed work will not be visible from public space.

O.G. 83-53	1258 Wisconsin Avenue, N.W. Marvin Fabrikant	New entries and store fronts
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ACTION: Preliminary design approval is given for new entries and storefronts as shown on drawings received and dated 14 March 1983. Working drawings, material samples and colors must be submitted for final approval before issuance of permit.

O.G. 83-54

3700 'O' Street, N.W.
Georgetown University

Co-generator addition

ACTION: Issue permit for co-generator addition to existing facility as shown on drawings received and dated 14 March 1983.

O.G. 83-55

1001 30th Street, N.W.
Crow Washington #1

Field Office construction

ACTION: No objection to design concept for renovation of existing structure to be used as a temporary (two-year) marketing office as shown on drawings received and dated 18 March 1983. It is understood that provision will be made for expansion joints in the proposed stucco surface and that color samples will be submitted to the Commission of Fine Arts for final approval.

O.G. 83-57

1301 Wisconsin Avenue, N.W. Awning
T/A Little Tavern
GEW, Inc.

ACTION: Do not issue permit. The proposed cantilevered awning attached to the existing gabled entrance overhang is inappropriate to the context of the building. There is no objection to the addition of horizontal white stripes to the individual window awnings as originally approved. (See previous action O.G. 83-33 in which the Board approved of four shed awnings.)

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MEETING OF THE COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS

April 19, 1983

The meeting was convened at 9:00 a.m. in the Commission of Fine Arts offices at 708 Jackson Place, N. W., Washington, D. C.

Members Present:

Hon. J. Carter Brown, Chairman
Hon. John S. Chase
Hon. Sondra G. Myers
Hon. Walter A. Netsch
Hon. Alan R. Novak
Hon. Edward D. Stone, Jr.

Staff Present:

Mr. Charles H. Atherton, Secretary
Mr. Donald B. Myer, Assistant Secretary
Mr. Jeffrey R. Carson
Mrs. Sue Kohler

National Capital Planning
Commission Staff Present:

Mr. George Evans

I. ADMINISTRATION

- A. Dates of next meetings, approved as: 10 May 1983
14 June 1983
12 July (tentative)
13 September (tentative)

- B. Minutes of February 8 and March 8 1983 meetings, approved.

- C. District of Columbia Save the Elms Task Force, report.

The Secretary called on staff member Jeffrey Carson to present a status report on the Save the Elms Task Force. Mr. Carson reminded the Commission that an earlier report presented in September 1981 outlined the existing elm disease problem, its effect on the Capital, and the areas of study and experiment then under consideration to combat the disease.

The current status report constituted a final draft recommendation as designed by the Task Force. The recommendation called for a division of the city into three management zones. The central zone would include the Monumental Core, principally the Mall, Capitol and White House grounds, within which the elm population would be preserved. In turn this area would be surrounded by a protective secondary zone, the existing elm population replaced as they succumbed to the disease with other species. Both zones would be kept under an intensive management program utilizing a variety of inspection, prevention and clean-up techniques. The third zone would comprise the remainder of the city and consist of a maintenance program similar to that now in use but with the specific of limiting the elm specie only to certain streets. In response to Mr. Stone who asked what results could be expected should the present maintenance standards remain, Mr. Carson stated that the entire elm population would be eliminated by the year 2000 with an incurred cost of over 14 million dollars in removing and replacing the stricken trees. The intensive management program, while initially more expensive, would reduce the percentage of yearly loss from 6 to 1%, insure the survival of at least half the remaining 18,000 elms in the District, and cost in the long run less than half the budget predicted should circumstances be allowed to continue unaltered. The Secretary then asked whether the Tidal Basin, West Potomac Park and Constitution Avenue should also be included within the first zone of elm management and continued propagation. The Chairman and other members concurred. Mr. Carson then stated that in order for this program to be implemented, the Task Force had drawn up a Memorandum of Agreement to be signed by the District of Columbia, the National Park Service, GSA, the Department of Defense, the Architect of the Capitol, and the Smithsonian Institution. Both the NCPC and the CFA would be signers of concurrence. In respect to concurrence, Mr. Carson pointed out that the Director of the National Capital Region of the National Park Service (Jack Fish) would sign the Agreement only upon hearing of the concurrence of the Commission of Fine Arts. The Commission agreed to the Task Force recommendations and the Chairman suggested directing a letter to the Chairman of the NCPC expressing that position. Exhibit A

D. Landmarks Committee, confirmation of reappointment of incumbent members. The Secretary recalled that the Commission had approved the reappointment of these members at the July 1982 meeting, but that the item was not on the agenda and thus had been inadvertently left out of the minutes. He said he would like officially to confirm the action at this meeting, and attach the letter written to the Mayor on 10 August 1982 as an exhibit to the 13 July 1982 minutes, with a note of explanation.

The Secretary said also that a letter had just been received from the Mayor notifying the Commission that he intended to establish his own

Historic Preservation Review Board and asking for the Commission's cooperation and assistance during the transition period, when authority will be transferred from the Joint Committee on Landmarks. The Secretary said the present members would remain until the new board was established. Mr. Netsch stressed the necessity for liaison and a common ground for all review boards, in order to avoid overlapping and other problems, including the possibility of court cases. The Secretary said such cooperation had been the norm in the past and he expected it would continue. Exhibit B, B-1

II. SUBMISSIONS AND REVIEWS

A. District of Columbia Government, Department of Housing and Community Development, Redevelopment Land Agency

CFA 19/APR/83-1, New office building, 4th and Virginia Avenue, S. W., final designs, (Previous: CFA 14/NOV/82-8 and CFA 14/DEC/82-3) Mr. Carson recalled the Commission's approval of a revised preliminary design for this building in December 1982; he said the design development drawings recently reviewed by the staff conformed to the approved design and noted also that material samples had been received. Thomas Massey from Clark, Tribble, Harris and Li, architects, was introduced to discuss the various materials and their location on the building. Mr. Massey showed a sample of a reddish thermal finished granite, which he said would be used for the base and also in a rusticated pattern up to the second floor. The next floor would be eight inch square bricks of a similar color, with 8" x 4" bricks used for the horizontal bands of the upper floors, alternating with bands of butt-jointed solar glass, neutral silver in color. Heads and sills would be stainless steel, as would a cap around the top of the building. Paving would be brick with granite stripes. The materials were unanimously approved. Exhibit C

B. National Park Service, National Capital Region

1. CFA 19/APR/83-2, Vietnam Veterans Memorial, site planning development details. The Assistant Secretary said the Park Service had requested, at this meeting, the review of further site development plans; he introduced architect Kent Cooper to discuss them. Mr. Cooper said his principal task for this submission had been to enhance the plaza around the sculpture, and design paths to accommodate the handicapped; the main problem had been to connect the two geometries--that of the angular memorial walls, and the curve of the path that defines the site. Mr. Cooper discussed the setting for the sculpture first. Drawings and a model showed the sculpture set in a circular paved area at the edge of a circle of grass defined by a walk. The paving consisted of radiating blocks of flame-finished granite set so that a thin strip of grass could grow between the joints. The same paving was set outside the walk in the vicinity of the sculpture, forming a half circle. There were two paths to aid the handicapped: one to help those approaching the memorial from

the north, and the other connecting the memorial wall and the sculpture plaza. These paths would be five feet wide and made from large pavers of crushed granite, like that used for the walls. The circular walk defining the grass sculpture plaza would also be made of this material. The members were concerned about the roughness of this material; Mr. Cooper agreed that the sample he showed was too rough and said it would be refined and softened. There was also concern that the paths would appear too dark in color.

Joseph Brown, landscape architect, discussed the planting and the need for adequate walks, noting the long lines of people waiting to visit the memorial. In answer to a question from Mr. Stone, Robert Doubek from the VVMF said there was no intention at this time to widen the walk paralleling the walls. He said a four-inch strip of mulch would be placed along the outer edge until the grass matures. A question was asked about the northern handicapped path--was it to be considered an entrance or an exit? The answer was that at present it would function as both, although eventually the main entrance would be to the southwest, where the sculpture will be located. The Chairman again said he thought the material for the paths was too black; he did not think they should be made of the same material as the memorial walls. The other members agreed, feeling that something more earth-toned would be preferable.

Mr. Doubek then discussed the locator. He showed a mock-up of a design slightly modified from that seen previously. He said one of these had been placed on the site on February 26, and to date only one replacement book had been needed. He said there had been no theft or vandalism, and apparently no difficulty in finding names. The locators will be made in normal and wheelchair heights.

Gordon Mansfield, representing the Paralyzed Veterans of America, submitted a written statement for the record and then commented briefly on his organization's reaction to the site modifications. He recalled that he had brought up the problem of handicapped access at the February 1983 meeting, and he said his group was now quite satisfied with the results. He said that as handicapped parking is provided to the north, on Constitution Avenue at 21st Street, those coming by car would enter from the northern path. He agreed with Mr. Netsch that some handicapped parking ought to be provided in the Lincoln Memorial area also. Although he had received complaints about the width of the walk along the memorial walls, he said he thought it was acceptable because widening it slightly would not really help in accommodating the large number of visitors. Mr. Mansfield's last comments concerned the locators. He thought some consideration should be given to their use by paraplegics and the blind, perhaps through a telephone connection. He said he was working with the Library of Congress program for the blind on this.

The site development plans were unanimously approved subject to the recommendations about the material to be used for the paths and the inclusion of additional handicapped parking near the Lincoln Memorial. Exhibit D

2. CFA 19/APR/83-3, Overpass bridge at Daingerfield Island over the George Washington Memorial Parkway. The Assistant Secretary pointed out the site, at Daingerfield Island near National Airport and the sailing marina. He introduced John Parsons from the Park Service to explain the circumstances that led to the need for this bridge. Mr. Parsons said that in 1970 there had been an agreement between the Secretary of the Interior, the Richmond, Fredericksbrug and Potomac Railroad, and the Fairchild Company, whereby in exchange for 29 acres of Dych Marsh, Alexandria, rights access from the George Washington Memorial Parkway to the proposed Potomac Center on 38 acres of land owned by the railroad and Mr. Fairchild would be granted. (Mr. Fairchild is now deceased.) The agreement stated that the bridge to provide this access would be built at no cost to the United States and would be a center pier bridge comparable in style and type to the one crossing at the south end of the airport. The design would require approval by the National Park Service, NCPG, and the Commission of Fine Arts. Mr. Parsons said no development had yet been planned, and Mr. Netsch asked, in that case, how the size of the bridge and approaches could be determined. George Winfield, from the railroad company, was present and said they had adequate figures to work out their requirements, and it was necessary at this point to determine the amount of land involved in the easement. A model showed the bridge to be four lanes with one lane approach ramps. The members did not think this excessive and had no objections to the design, although they asked to see final grading and landscaping plans when the developed bridge drawings are submitted. The project was given unanimous preliminary approval. Exhibit E

3. CFA 19/APR/83-4, Mall lighting on Madison Drive. The Secretary reported that the Commission had inspected a lighting mock-up of this the evening before the meeting; he then asked for comments. Mr. Netsch said he liked the increased brightness and sparkle provided by the white high intensity halide lights, but he believed he was in the minority. The other members preferred the softer effect of the incandescent lamps, the Chairman commenting that he was particularly bothered by the glare of the brighter lights. Mr. Netsch asked John Parsons, the Park Service representative, to comment. Mr. Parsons said the proposal for a change from incandescent to halide had been made on the assumption that a brighter light would reduce crime. The sodium vapor lights had been ruled out because of their objectionable orange color. Another advantage of the halide lights would be the significant decrease in use of energy. The Chairman said the basic problem with the new lights was that they differed so much in color and intensity from those used on the Capitol and Washington Monument, and so would

make these monuments look dim, washed out, and too pink. Mr. Netsch suggested that the globes could be sandblasted on their east and west faces so that the intensity would be lower on axis with the monuments. Mr. Stone suggested that the incandescent lights be kept on the inner walks and the halides used on the outside adjoining Madison and Jefferson Drives, where they would blend with other city lights and not be seen in relation to the monument lighting. David Childs, from Skidmore, Owings & Merrill, the firm that was responsible for returning the Olmsted fixtures to the Mall, was present at the meeting and said he liked Mr. Stone's suggestion for mixing the lights. The Chairman also commented that as a result of the inspection it was noticed that the area of the Mall between 7th and 9th streets was devoid of lights and needed some illumination. The exclusive use of halide lights on the Mall was disapproved and further study will be carried out based on the suggestions made by the members. Exhibit F

The Secretary noted that the Commission had also inspected the pedestrian light mock-ups at 1201 Pennsylvania Avenue, N. W., but as PADC had withdrawn this project from the agenda, it would be discussed at a later date.

C. Pennsylvania Avenue Development Corporation

1. CFA 19/APR/83-5, pedestrian light mock-up, withdrawn
2. CFA 19/APR/83-6, Western Plaza flagpole bases, withdrawn

D. Smithsonian Institution, Museum of Natural History

CFA 19/APR/83-7, placement of heating and air conditioning equipment on roof, design of equipment housing. The Assistant Secretary said this submission was for an addition to the penthouse on this building, to provide for upgrading the HVAC equipment. He introduced Phillip Reiss from the Smithsonian to discuss the details. Mr. Reiss said the existing structure would be extended around the building at the same height (16 feet), and that the screen wall would be of a material harmonious with the building in texture and color. The Chairman and Mr. Netsch asked if it had to be the same height all the way around. Mr. Reiss said a uniform height was not necessary, and the members all thought it would be better to lower it wherever possible, perhaps using a setback technique to minimize visibility from ground level. Mr. Reiss said he would communicate this request and return with an alternate scheme at a later meeting. An addition to the size of the penthouse was approved, because it was deemed necessary, but the configuration and overall height was unanimously disapproved. Exhibit G

E. District of Columbia Government, Department of Housing and Community Development

1. Shipstead-Luce Act

a. S.L. 83-48, 730 15th Street, N. W., Enclose terraces on 10th floor of American Security Bank building (previous: S.L. 83-3) Mr. Carson recalled a previous submission in November 1982 for a greenhouse type enclosure on one of the terraces, and said the design had since been revised and was to include both terraces. He introduced Mr. Cullinane, building manager for American Security Bank, to discuss the changes. Mr. Cullinane said the bank had decided to act on the Commission's suggestion that enclosing both terraces instead of one might look better because they are symmetrical. Also, he said the decision had been made to abandon the greenhouse type enclosure and go to a conservatory type with large windows and a standing seam roof, harmonizing in style with the bank building and others around it. The members all thought this a great improvement and the design was unanimously approved.

b. S.L. 83-50, 2138 & 2140 F Street, N. W., new seven story building. Mr. Carson said this submission was for a medical condominium in a block where the Commission had recently approved another such condominium and an apartment building. Mr. Jones of Martin and Jones, architects, was introduced to discuss the design. He showed photographs of the area and noted that the project would require the demolition of two houses, one pre-Civil War and the other post-war; three later Victorian houses would remain. He pointed out a PEPCO plant and modern high-rise apartment houses near the site and said the area was zoned R5D, permitting a 90 foot height. Mr. Jones then showed drawings of the proposed building and said that his firm had tried to make it fit in with the various styles in the neighborhood. The material would be limestone, with glass block and pipe railing accents. The members were all pleased with the conceptual design and approved it unanimously.

c. Appendix 1, approved.

2. Old Georgetown Act

a. O.G. 83-67, 1025 Thomas Jefferson Street, N. W., revision to approved plans for new building, Crow Washington (previous: O.G. 83-22). (Mr. Netsch left the room because of his previous association with the architects, Skidmore, Owings & Merrill) The Assistant Secretary said this request was for the addition of an elevator penthouse of modest size to this recently approved building. The Georgetown Board had seen drawings for a simple, box-like structure, and had suggested

that further studies might produce a more interesting design. Architect David Childs was then introduced to discuss these new studies. He showed two drawings: one for a rectangular structure with slanted sides, which in angle and material echoed the roof of the building; and a second which was similar, but with the addition of a small turret as an architectural embellishment. The members agreed that either would be preferable to a straight-sided box. The Chairman suggested that bringing back the chimneys shown on the original drawings (and removed when the residential units were eliminated) would add greatly to the appearance; he asked if there was a possibility this could be accomplished. The owner's representative was present and said he did not know what additional cost would be involved but would look into it.

b. Appendix 2, approved.

F. Department of the Treasury, Bureau of the Mint

CFA 19/APR/83-8, Louis L'Amour medal, designs. Staff member Sue Kohler said this medal was one of a series of three, the Fred Waring medal (recently approved), and one for the widow of Joe Louis, honoring her husband, being the other two. She introduced George Schafer from the Mint, who showed the members designs for the obverse and reverse of the medal. On the obverse was a portrait of Mr. L'Amour, with his name above, around the edge of the medal. On the reverse was a Western scene, recalling the subject matter of his novels, with an inscription around the edge. The members had no objection to the designs, and they were unanimously approved. Exhibit H

The meeting was adjourned at 11:00 a.m.

Signed,

Charles H. Atherton
Secretary

THE COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS

ESTABLISHED BY CONGRESS MAY 17, 1910

J. CARTER BROWN, Chairman

EXHIBIT A

HAROLD BURSON

WALTER A. NETSCH

JOHN S. CHASE

ALAN R. NOVAK

SONDRA O. MYERS

EDWARD D. STONE, JR.

CHARLES H. ATHERTON, Secretary

708 JACKSON PLACE, N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20006
202-566-1066

May 6, 1983

RE: D.C. Save the Elms Task Force

Dear Mr. Rody,

This letter is to confirm that the U.S. Commission of Fine Arts responded favorably to the Save the Elm Task Force report which it discussed during its April 19, 1983 meeting. The Commission commends the work and supports the conclusions reached by the task force members and urges swift compliance with their stated goals. This agency considers that the long term merits of the proposal far outweigh the initial burden such a program might incur. The task force solution is considered both rational and professional in its approach to the elm tree disease problem. The Commission, however, recommends one minor adjustment to the scheme. In defining the boundaries of zone one, the Intensive Management Zone, the Commission urges the inclusion of the Tidal Basin and West Potomac Park precincts and that portion of Constitution Avenue flanking the Mall. The street trees and those on the grounds of the buildings on Constitution Avenue are an integral part of the Mall park environs and should be included in the Intensive Management zone. It is also important that a unified landscape be maintained on the Avenue.

With the full support of this Commission, it is therefore recommended that the various agencies and departments in both the Federal and District Governments cooperate in the signing and implementation of the Memorandum of Agreement. This agency looks forward to the continued participation of the various members of the task force and the viable conclusion to a worthwhile endeavor.

Sincerely yours,



J. Carter Brown
Chairman

Mr. Martin Rody
Director of Planning Services Division
National Capital Planning Commission
1325 G Street, N.W. - 10th Floor
Washington, D.C. 20576



RECEIVED
COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS

APR 18 1983

THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20004

EXHIBIT B

ON BARRY, JR.
MAYOR

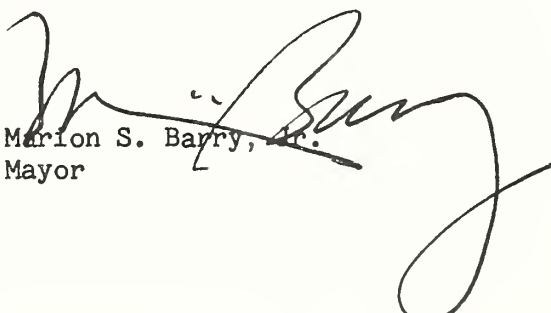
April 11, 1983

Mr. J. Carter Brown
President
Commission of Fine Arts
708 Jackson Place, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20001

Dear Mr. Brown:

I have decided to establish my own Historic Preservation Review Board pursuant to Section Four of D.C. Law 2-144, the "Historic Landmark and Historic District Protection Act of 1978." Establishment of such a board, therefore, will terminate my cosponsorship of the Joint Committee on Landmarks (JCL). This letter is written to inform you of my decision and to request your cooperation and assistance during the transition period. I appreciate all of the time, effort, and commitment and hope that you will continue to provide the same level of assistance during this transition period.

Sincerely,



Marion S. Barry, Jr.
Mayor

THE COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS

ESTABLISHED • BY • CONGRESS • MAY • 17, 1910

708 JACKSON PLACE, N W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20006

EXHIBIT B-1

April 25, 1983

Dear Mayor Barry,

Your letter regarding the establishment of an autonomous District of Columbia Historic Preservation Review Board was discussed at our meeting on April 19, 1983. As you know the Commission has supported such a proposal for some time and is pleased to see it being implemented. You can be assured of our full support and assistance during the transition period.

The chief problem inherent in shifting from one review body to another is to ensure continuity in the evolution of specific projects such as the designation of historic buildings or districts or the development of a design. A good way to avoid the duplication of oftentimes extensive work that has already been done would be to appoint the existing members of the Landmarks Committee to the newly constituted Review Board for an interim period. The length of time of individual appointments could vary and further ease the transition period by lessening the abruptness of the changeover. We have found this to be helpful based on our own experience as a design review agency since periodic changes in membership are a normal function of this Commission.

Continuity in membership would also allow more time and energy to be directed toward whatever steps are needed to recertify as soon as possible the District Government's Office of Preservation. As you are aware, recent action by the Department of Interior has resulted in both the cutting off of funds and the termination of nominations to the National Register. This could be a serious blow to a whole range of preservation projects, especially in the area of financing and tax matters. We urge your prompt action to correct this situation.

Mayor Barry
April 25, 1983
Page 2

Finally the members of the Commission asked me to stress the importance of continuing the same close administrative cooperation that has existed between the Joint Committee's review and that of the Commission in areas where our jurisdiction overlaps such as Capitol Hill and Georgetown. It is essential that these processes of review be coordinated to the greatest extent possible so that architects and owners will not be subject to any unnecessary bureaucratic burden in matters of securing design approval. I hope you agree.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J. Carter Brown", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

J. Carter Brown
Chairman

The Honorable
Marion S. Barry, Jr.
Mayor of the District of Columbia
District Building, Suite 520
1350 Pennsylvania Ave., N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20004

Mayor Barry
April 25, 1983
Page 2

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Sincerely,

J. Carter Brown
Chairman

The Honorable
Marion S. Barry, Jr.
Mayor of the District of Columbia
District Building, Suite 520
1350 Pennsylvania Ave., N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20004

✓ cc: Lucy Franklin
Reginald Griffith
Ernest Harper

ATL

THE COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS

ESTABLISHED BY CONGRESS MAY 17, 1910

EXHIBIT C

J. CARTER BROWN, Chairman

HAROLD BURTON

WALTER A. NETECH

JOHN S. CHASE

ALAN R. NOVAK

SONDRA O. MYERS

EDWARD D. STONE, JR.

CHARLES H. ATHERTON, Secretary

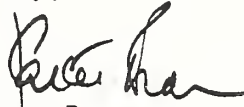
708 JACKSON PLACE, N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20006
202-566-1066

May 5, 1983

Dear Mr. Sherman:

The Commission was happy to meet with you on April 19, 1983, and to approve the design development drawings and material samples for the proposed office building at 4th and Virginia Avenue, S.W. We feel that the project plans are coming along very well and look forward to final review of working drawings as part of the construction permit process under the Shipstead-Luce Act.

Sincerely,



J. Carter Brown
Chairman

Mr. Stanley Sherman
District of Columbia
Department of Housing and
Community Development
Washington, D.C. 20002

THE COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS

ESTABLISHED • BY • CONGRESS • MAY • 17, 1910

708 JACKSON PLACE, N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20006

EXHIBIT D

May 5, 1983

Dear Jack:

On behalf of the Commission of Fine Arts I am happy to respond to your request for comments on the design development of the entrance area site plans for the Vietnam Veterans Memorial. During our April 19, 1983 meeting we endorsed the concept of a circular feature containing the sculpture, near the flagpole, and also the proposal to provide paths for handicapped access to both ends of the memorial wall. Our final approval is dependent on obtaining just the right combination of materials, colors, and joint details. We found the material sample for the handicapped path to be excessively sharp-edged and too black; the architects agreed it needed further study and refinement. Something more nearly approaching an earth tone would seem to be more appropriate.

Additionally, the Commission asked that thought be given to providing more handicapped parking, perhaps in the vicinity of the Lincoln Memorial, and thus closer to the flag and sculpture, the main entrance to the memorial site.

The members were pleased that the book-type name locator has proven to be successful; we now look forward to reviewing final design for the stand itself.

Sincerely,



J. Carter Brown
Chairman

Mr. Manus J. Fish, Regional Director
National Capital Region
National Park Service
1100 Ohio Drive, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20242

THE COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS

ESTABLISHED BY CONGRESS MAY 17, 1910

J. CARTER BROWN, Chairman

HAROLD BURSON

JOHN S. CHASE

SONDRA G. MYERS

WALTER A. NETSCH

ALAN R. NOVAK

EDWARD D. STONB, JR.

CHARLES H. ATHERTON, Secretary

EXHIBIT E

708 JACKSON PLACE, N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20006
202-566-1066

May 5, 1983


Dear Mr. Fish:

The Commission reviewed preliminary designs for an overpass structure at the George Washington Memorial Parkway and Daingerfield Island during its April 19, 1983, meeting. Though the Commission has no comment on the planning aspects of this proposal, and would have a preference for not building overhead structures at all over the Parkway, we find the design consistent with other bridges in the same roadway system. As usual we are making our approval contingent on submission to and approval by the Commission of a landscaping and grading plan, and the details of such elements as lighting and the design of the rails.

Sincerely,



J. Carter Brown
Chairman

Mr. Jack Fish
Regional Director, National
Capital Region
National Park Service
1100 Ohio Drive, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20242

THE COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS

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WASHINGTON, D.C. 20006

EXHIBIT F

May 5, 1983

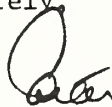
Dear Jack:

The Commission had a chance to examine the lighting mockup on the Mall on the evening of April 18, 1983 and to discuss it in detail at its meeting on the following day.

Our feeling is that the new lights are suitable for use along Madison and Jefferson Drives but are far too bright for the standards next to the center panel of the Mall itself. These lights are presently incandescent and should, we believe, remain so. Both the quantity and quality of light they produce are just right when viewing the Washington Monument and the Capitol which, as you know, are also illuminated by incandescent lighting. The brighter lights on the outside, however, will give better visibility in the tree panel and the roadway areas and should enhance the feeling of security.

In this regard, the Commission noted the dark gap created by the omission of lighting where the 8th Street "cross-axis" occurs. Unfortunately, the absence of lighting at that point looks more like a mistake than any kind of design, and gives the area the feeling of a vacant lot, not to mention the security implications. The result is a de-emphasis of precisely the area one would like to feel part of a cross-axis experience. We believe that the implied cross-axis is realized visually by the tree planting scheme and the importance of the buildings defining it, and that the continuation of lighting fixtures here would not interfere with that perception in any way, and could even enhance it.

Sincerely,



J. Carter Brown
Chairman

Mr. Manus J. Fish, Regional Director
National Capital Region
National Park Service
1100 Ohio Drive, S.W.

THE COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS

ESTABLISHED BY CONGRESS MAY 17, 1910

J. CARTER BROWN, Chairman

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EDWARD D. STONE, JR.

CHARLES H. ATHERTON, Secretary

EXHIBIT G

708 JACKSON PLACE, N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20006
202-566-1066

May 5, 1983

Dear Mr. Reiss:

The Commission of Fine Arts was happy to meet with you and give conceptual approval to a scheme for installing mechanical equipment on the roof of the Natural History Museum. Though the Commission regrets the necessity for enlarging the existing penthouses on the roof, we recognize that there is no other practical way of providing for the additions to the air distribution system that are vital to the proper functioning of the museum.

The preliminary proposal shows a simple screenwall of a material that would match the existing building. This is a step in the right direction, but going a bit farther and keeping it to the minimum height and area would probably result in a better architectural solution. We hope that more definitive studies will make that approach possible, and look forward to reviewing the final designs and material samples as they are ready.

Sincerely,



J. Carter Brown
Chairman

Mr. Philip K. Reiss
Director
Office of Design and Construction
Smithsonian Institution
Washington, D.C. 20560

THE , COMMISSION , OF , FINE , ARTS

ESTABLISHED BY CONGRESS MAY 17, 1910

J. CARTER BROWN, Chairman

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EDWARD D. STONE, JR.

CHARLES H. ATHERTON, Secretary

EXHIBIT H

708 JACKSON PLACE, N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20006
202-566-1066

May 11, 1983

Dear Barry,

In looking over our records from the April meeting, I discovered that no letter was sent confirming our approval of the Louis L'Amour medal. For the record, the design was accepted as presented, with no recommendations for further study.

Sincerely,



Charles H. Atherton
Secretary

Mr. Francis B. Frere
Director of the Mint for Marketing
Department of the Treasury
Bureau of the Mint
Washington, D.C. 20220

